THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) An Advisory committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines has been set up to assist public sector undertakings and subordinate offices under the Ministry of Mines who have to deal with foreign investors to ensure better co-ordination and common approach on policy issues pertaining to proposals received from foreign investors for collaborative and joint venture agreements.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Gold, Diamonds, Iron ore and base metals.

(d) The estimated value of mineral production excluding fuel and atomic minerals was Rs. 909 crores from April to July 1994 as against the actual value of production of Rs. 868 crores during the same period in 1993.

Setting up joint venture for gold resources

1666. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Naugini Mining Limited of Australia for setting up a joint venture to identify prospective gold resources;

(b) if so, the salient features of the joint venture and the equity to be held by the Australian Company and the Hindustan Zinc Limited;

(c) which are the areas identified by Hindustan Zinc Limited of gold occurences particularly in Karnataka and the estimated gold reserves there; and

(d) when is the Australian Company likely to start exploration and mining of gold in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between M/s. Niugini Mining Ltd. (NML) and Hindustan Zinc Limited, signed on 18-7-94, NML will evaluate the data provided by HZL on few identified gold prospects explored by GSI/MECL and prepare an initial project report to identify prospects for feasibility studies and subsequent development. The cost of evaluation will be borne by the Australian Company.

In case an economic opportunity is identified, both Companies will form a joint venture Company with Niugini Mining Ltd. holding 60 per cent and Hindustan Zinc Ltd. holding 40 per cent equity to conduct detailed feasibility study and subsequent mine development. The final investment would depend on the type and size of the deposit identified. The MOU will expire if a successful opportunity is not identified within a period of two years, unless otherwise agreed mutually.

(c) Two deposits in Karnataka identified by HZL for initial evaluation. The details are as under:—

ORE

Prospects	Reserves (MT)	Grade (Gold)
Ajjanahalli	2.7	2.00 G/T
Kempinkote	3.5	1.22 G/T

(d) M/s. Niugini Mining Ltd.'s consulting geologist have been visiting HZL to examine the available data. If the preliminary report identifies economic targets, a detailed feasibility report will be prepared which will be the basis for decision, on when the Australian Company should start mining of good in Karnataka.

Mineral deposits in Rajasthan and Orissa

1667. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey so far